

Free! R&B NEWS

Vol. 1 No. 1

FAROUK!

Tuesday, August 8, 1966

SMOKE-FILLED RUMORS

Howlin' Wolff is coming to the Avalon in 2 weeks...Jefferson Airplane will have an album out August 15 on RCA...Country Joe and the Fish have released an E.P. which is available from them at P.O. box 2233 in Berkeley for \$1...The Daily Flash have recorded Dylan's Queen Jane Approximately on Parrot...The San Francisco Calliope Company is developing into an interesting promotional group which may soon rival the original Family Dog. Right now they are doing mostly out-of-town dances --their next scenes will be in San Jose and Seattle this month. The Calliope Co. are providing lights, atmosphere, and S.F. groups...Bob Dylan was involved in a motorcycle accident in upstate New York last weekend - his press people are not commenting beyond saying he will be out of action for awhile...Big Brother and the Holding Company have not signed a recording contract with Mercury Records or anyone else as of yet--although they have had offers from many companies they are in the tentative stage...The Great Society has lost its rhythm guitarist David Miner--most of the singing that he formerly did is done by the bass player now - Darby Slick also sings on one song (!)...The Charlatans may soon record with Kapp Records--apparently they no longer have any connection with Kama Sutra...Newest

group on the English scene is from Liverpool, called The Fix--they're composed of white R&B musicians who've been on that scene for quite a while now although they are still quite young--the sound and image are roughly like The Who...looking for a Yugoslav electric kazoo and violin player? Check the wall at M5...The W.C.Fields Memorial Electric String Band, a bay area based group, have released an excellent single on Mercury, I'm Not Your Stepping Stone/Round World...one of the best new groups in the bay area are The Only Alternative and All Its Possibilities--they play at Prince Charley's Inn in Tiburon - contact them there...The legendary Tim Hardin has just released an album on Verve Folkways, Tim Hardin 1...It's rumored that Dino Valente is out of jail--if so someone should put him on stage because several groups have done things by him which turn out to be their best songs - his Hey, Joe put the Leaves on the map, Dino's Song (All I Ever Wanted To Do was Love You) is a standby for Quicksilver, and the We Five's best record was his Let's Get Together- someone should record him...Several people around the English R&B scene for years have made somewhat of a comeback recently--Chris Farlowe has had a no.1 chart hit with the Stones' Out of Time--Manfred Mann's Pretty Flamingo also

• The Byrds.

• Anyone who can tell me anything about Wammack that isn't listed here (beyond the fact that he appeared on the Lloyd Thaxton show years ago) please do so. Chet Helm and Bill Graham, find this man and bring him to San Francisco! Atlantic Records, put his single on an album with other goodies. (Or else we will start selling bootleg tapes) More on this in future issues of the Mojo Navigator.

---De Harries

SPECIAL REPORT:

THE WOLF MAN

At great intervals something really remarkable will come along in the world of radio, a truly memorable and unique radio show. The early months of Russ Syracuse's all-night KYA show; Bob Hudson's all-night KYA show, if the dim memories of my youth do not betray me, and the latest, the Wolf Man.

I discovered the Wolf Man back in March, driving home from a dance. I was looking for KRLA and I hit upon a nearby station which was playing songs by Bo Diddley, Howlin' Wolf, Muddy Waters, Little Richard and others like that, interspersed with wolf calls. The announcer was a man who spoke in a very strange voice, sort of like Howlin' Wolf, or more like Captain Beefheart.

Wolf Man Jacks, or the Wolf Man, can now be heard from 9:00 PM until 3:00 AM on XLRB, 1090. When I first discovered him, he had evidently not been on for long. He played nothing but hard solid R&B, and the only commercials were for record packages from Uncle George's record store back east. The Wolf Man would encourage his listeners to buy these packages if they wanted him to stay on the air. "You gonna love this rec'd package, baby. Send your 5 dollars to Big Forty, XLRB, Chula Vista, California, so the Wolf Man can eat tomorrow!" Apparently word of him spread, and people began buying the record packages, because last month he moved his center of operations from Chula Vista, a town near the Mexican Border, to Los Angeles. His show is not so primitive now as it once was; he is appealing to the kids, especially the LA kids. He now has a couple of recorded announce-

ments, a new sponsor (The Drinking Man's Diet: "C'mon an' boogy wit' da drinkin' man's diet, baby") and he has started playing more schlock motown and borderline r&r. But still the wild strangeness, the striking singularity of the Wolf Man's show survives. He used to be on all night, but he has moved his show up three hours, also as a concession to his newly-found younger listeners.

While the Wolf Man's bag is unique, it is a limited one. I don't think he plays more than a couple of dozen records regularly, and some records he plays several times an hour, either because he likes them a lot or he's getting payed to play them that often. He speaks almost entirely in his personal idioms, such as "C'mon an' boogy wit' da Wolf Man," "Have! mercy!," "You gonna love dis (record, drinkin' man's diet, record package, or whatever) to bits, baby!" and every record he plays is interrupted by recorded wolf cries.

Though he's stopped advertising it, the Wolf Man has recorded an album. He and Groovy George (his engineer) brought a bunch of musicians and chorus singers to the studio and turned out a wild record with the Wolf Man growling out such songs as "New Orleans," "Short Fat Fanny," and many other hard R&B rock songs. He advertised this album for a while at \$4 but hasn't mentioned it in over a month, so I don't know if it's still available. You might try, though, especially if you are a record collector.

XLRB is a strong station and you can usually pick it up on any good radio, though there is one station which sometimes covers it up for short periods of time. I suggest you turn on your radio some night at 9:15 or so and pick up on the Wolf Man Jacks show, the strangest thing happening on radio.

---G. Shaw

Caught the Grass Roots at the Fillmore last night--they have improved a good deal since I heard them some weeks ago. I think they have a new drummer--if not the old one plays like a new man. (a strong...

solid beat). The bass and drums merge in almost all their numbers - especially the h&b things. Sunshine joined them in a few songs and was truly groovy. As a matter of fact, 'Long Tall Sally' moved as well or better than anything anyone played all night. The Grass Roots are well worth hearing. ---D. Harris

Classified ads in the Mojo Navigator or R&R News are 10¢ per half-column line.

News and announcements are welcomed. Drop by or give us a call. Letters of comment and contributions such as reviews of records or dances, are also invited. The Mojo Navigator makes no claims about the truth or validity of its 'rumors' but we don't print anything we aren't reasonably sure is true. If we make a mistake that bugs you we'll print a retraction. Our plans for the future are to keep a regular weekly schedule and feature reviews of new records that appear, interesting events that happen, and articles we feel will be of interest to rock & roll fans. We will also have a series of 'special reports' in which we will in the next few issues have in-depth studies of some of the local r&r groups, or maybe interviews with them. We will also try to keep you posted on everything of interest that is happening in the Bay Area. If you know of something let us know.

COLOPHON

THE MOJO NAVIGATOR R&R NEWS is published weekly by the Mojo Publishing Company, 2707 B&C McAllister St., San Francisco, Calif. Phone: 221-4891.

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Anyone who wants to send us free tickets to anything can count on its being reviewed in depth herein.

INTERESTED IN POSTERS????

Buy? Sell? Trade? The staff of the Mojo Navigator has just about every poster, if you want to see what they look like, but some of us need stuff anyway. I need most everything before March, and I have just about everything after March, including lots of duplicates. If you have old posters or want recent ones, get in touch. Phone # in Colophon.

RECORD COMPANY PERSECUTION MANIA

--- D. Harris No.1

In recent months I've noticed a growing trend on the part of the major record companies to not include either the flip side or both sides of a hit record by a major artist on his albums. I believe the reason why they are doing this is because they realize that the rock & roll audience has matured to the point at which it demands neither a hit single to lead off an album or the extended play 25 minute sides that the teeny-boppers of yesteryear wanted in their top-forty golden goodie days.

Anyway it bugs the hell out of me when I can't have a particular song preserved on 33 1/3 micro-groove. Here's a partial list of some of the songs I've noticed haven't been included on albums in recent months.

Them/Baby Please Don't Go

Yardbirds/Steeled Blues

Shapes of Things

New York City Blues

Rolling Stones/Sad Day

Bob Dylan/Positively 4th Street

Crawl Out Your Window
(neither version)

Beatles/I'm Down

The Who/Can't Explain

Anytime, Anywhere,
Anyhow

Why doesn't some enterprising young man with a good, well-functioning tape record and high-fidelity music system latch on to these records and start selling bootleg tapes, to force the major record companies into signing an agreement among themselves to re-license any material they don't use on 33 to independent lp producers?

represents a comeback in the U.S. for that group although they need no comeback in England since all their releases make no. 1 there... apparently the English band, John Mayall and his Bluesbreakers, have broken up (?). Al Kooper, organist for the Blues Project and Bob Dylan's last 2 albums, has produced quite a few record sessions including some surprisingly straight ones--for example with Gary Lewis & the Playboys -- he wrote their first hit, This Diamond Ring... The Beau Brummels new album is out on Warner Brothers, called '66', it looks like total schlock....

Happening this week: at the Matrix: Little Walter and his band... at Muir Beach, another party Wednesday 'God Mother & Country'... at Fillmore Sam the Sham & the Pharoahs with the Sit-Ins Wed. and Jefferson Airplane with the Grateful Dead this weekend... at Avalon Bo Diddley with Big Brother & the Holding Company (originally the Family Dog intended to have Bo Diddley in Oakland but changed their minds when hardly anybody showed up for his Longshoremens Hall appearance....

RECORDS

Peter, Paul and Mary - Album

This is a good Peter, Paul and Mary album but it is one of the most disappointing records of the year, in terms of poorly-utilized potential. Any rock & roll fan looking at it would be moved to buy it immediately; it was produced by Albert Grossman and it features the Charley McCoy band with Mike Bloomfield and Paul Butterfield. The McCoy band is that which backs up Dylan on his latest album. Al Kooper is also represented on the album. Unfortunately, though PP&M evidently tried to make a 'folk-rock' record by getting the best rock musicians around, the tremendous talent they had was hardly used at all except for 'background music'. Don't expect much from this record if you do buy it.

The Byrds - 5D

5D (Fifth Dimension, their last single which never made it here) is the best album the Byrds have pro-

duced. There is strong emphasis on folk rock, with the accent on rock, as it should be, and every song is flavored strongly with originality and performed flawlessly. The only complaint is that Why, the flip of 8 Miles High and just as good a song, is not on the album. But you will like this record nonetheless, and you will like it more in stereo.

The Yardbirds have a new album out too which is good, but to me disappointing in that both their previous albums were far better.

WHO IS TRAVIS WAMMACK?

I can tell you this much about him: he has released three singles (as far as I know), all on the Atlantic label. They are:

Firefly/Scratchy
Louie, Louie/ ---
Stay/Tomorrow Night

I don't own the 'Louie, Louie' disc so I don't know what the flip is. I have the other two. They are tough to describe in words beyond saying that Wammack is at least as good a guitar player as Jim Gurley or Mike Bloomfield and, I would judge, probably better than both. A friend of mine discovered 'Fire Fly' in his collection and played it for me after I had told him about Big Brother and the Holding Co. because he thought the sound might be similar. It is quite a bit like what Big Brother did at the first Trips in January.

Wammack's specialty is redoing old hard rock songs in instrumental fashion with bass, drum, and piano backing. I remember hearing Louie, Louie played on KDIA last year when it came out and to use a cliché it blew my mind. Wammack used an acoustic twelve against the absurd chords of that piece of lyric trash and bent the notes around the song in a startling way. Anyone who has a copy of this record may fetch a pretty penny for it by contacting me.

Wammack's most recent record, 'Stay'/Tomorrow Night' is in many ways his strangest. 'Stay', the old Maurice Williams and the Zodiacs song, is done with high pitched slide and tremelo effects. On 'Tomorrow Night' someone (Wammack?) sings, at first roughly like Bobby Vinton but as the song progresses more like what one would expect